

# HOW YOU CAN **SUPPORT THE HAVEN**



By supporting our charity and adopting one of our loveable animals, you will be contributing towards their daily care of specialized diets, veterinary bills and enrichment programme requirements. This in turn enables us to focus on funding and rescuing more primates and birds of prey in need of care.

Visit our gift shop or find out more online: [www.owlandmonkeyhaven.co.uk/products/adoptions.aspx](http://www.owlandmonkeyhaven.co.uk/products/adoptions.aspx)

**THANK YOU FOR VISITING THE OWL & MONKEY HAVEN  
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOON**

Owl & Monkey Haven, Staplers Road  
Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2NB  
Tel: 01983 530885

[WWW.OWLANDOMONKEYHAVEN.CO.UK](http://WWW.OWLANDOMONKEYHAVEN.CO.UK)

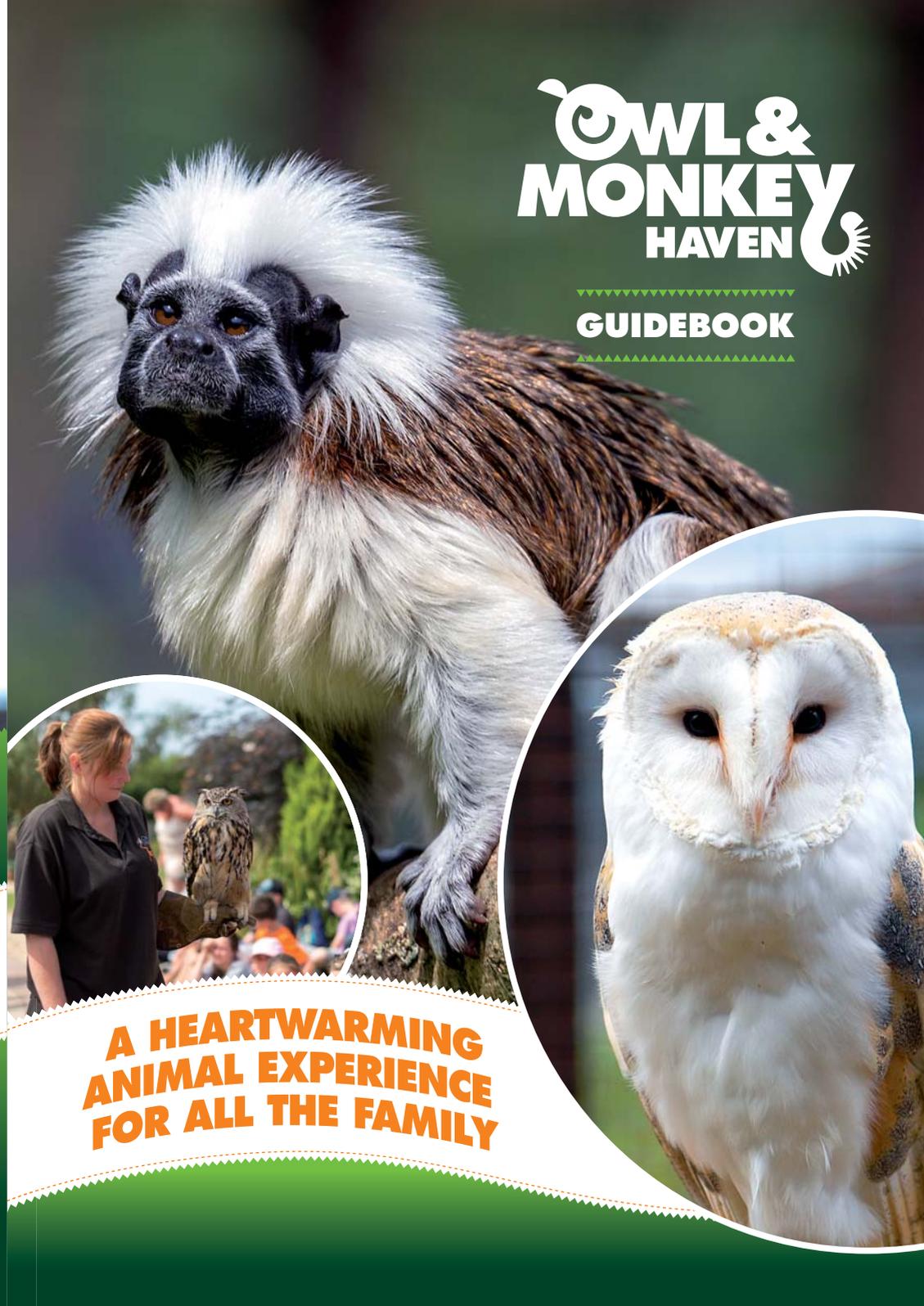
Registered charity no. 1153254

**WE ARE A  
REGISTERED  
CHARITY**



# OWL & MONKEY HAVEN

**GUIDEBOOK**



**A HEARTWARMING  
ANIMAL EXPERIENCE  
FOR ALL THE FAMILY**



WELCOME TO THE  
**OWL &  
MONKEY  
HAVEN**

ATTEND  
**KEEPER  
TALKS**  
THROUGHOUT  
THE DAY

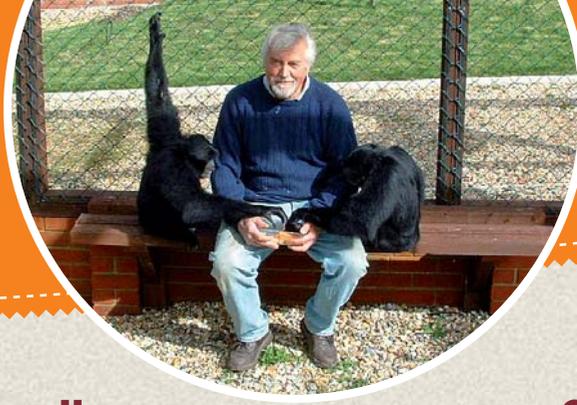


**ABOUT THIS BOOK**

This guidebook has been designed to provide you with a detailed insight into the work we do and the animals we care for here at the Owl & Monkey Haven.

As well as reading through this book, we would recommend attending the daily keeper talks and taking note of the various information boards dotted around the park. This way, hopefully your visit to the Haven will be as fun and informative as possible!

# ABOUT THE HAVEN



**All the animals at the Owl & Monkey Haven have come to us because they have nowhere else to go.**

## WHO ARE WE?

The Owl & Monkey Haven opened to the public in March 2010. It was designed, developed and built by long-time bird of prey enthusiast Don Walser and his son Antony, who continue to co-ordinate and expand the park to this day.

The original vision for the Haven was to provide a home for primates and birds of prey in need, allowing rescued animals to have a second chance at a peaceful enriched life. Since that time we have developed into a well known respected sanctuary with full charitable status. Many of the animals we care for have been rejected from their respective groups and rescued from the illegal pet trade. Recently we have established a rescue and rehabilitation service for injured local wildlife, and even provided homes for a small selection of reptiles and amphibians.

## WHY MONKEYS AND OWLS?

There's no other way to explain it than that's just the way it happened! Having rescued and cared for birds of prey for years in his home county of Northamptonshire, Don was well known throughout the local community for his love of animals. One day he was offered a group of marmosets (small monkeys from South America - page 13) by a private owner who no longer wanted them, and thus the combination of owls and monkeys was born

**Our keepers are always more than happy to take the time to answer any questions you might have about the animals they care for.**

## DAILY EVENTS

Our daily events programme allows you to get up close and personal with some of our animals.

The schedule changes depending on the time of year and weather conditions, but a relevant timetable can be found on the 'Keeper Talks' board directly in front of the entrance to the park.

## DAILY EVENTS OFTEN INCLUDE:

### MEET THE OWL

Join our keepers for an up close and personal presentation on Beau, Ketch and Rosie, our hand-reared owls at the daily bird talks. Afterwards you will be able to ask our keeper any questions you may have, and pose next to the owl for photo opportunities (no flash photography please).

### MONKEY FEED

Follow one of our keepers on a guided tour of the Haven as they feed the monkeys their midday snacks whilst providing information on each individual's species, personality and history.

**GET UP CLOSE**  
WITH OUR ANIMALS





# PRIMATES

## WHAT IS A PRIMATE?

**A primate is an animal that belongs to the scientific order Primates. This group contains all the apes, monkeys and prosimians.**

Primate species are diverse, occupying a wide range of habitats, and participating in many unique behaviours. Some primates eat meat and bugs whilst others feed on vegetation. The majority of primates are omnivores, which means they will eat both.

Many people associate primates with an arboreal (tree-dwelling) lifestyle, although there are plenty of species who have adapted to live on the ground.

The Owl & Monkey Haven is home to a wide selection of fascinating primates, some of whom you will be introduced to over the next few pages.

# MONKEYS

## NEW WORLD MONKEYS

**New World monkeys are those native to the Americas. They are the only primates found in this part of the world.**

Some New World monkeys have developed prehensile tails to assist them when they're climbing, others possess unique teeth that allow them to bite through the bark of trees to access the tasty tree sap inside.

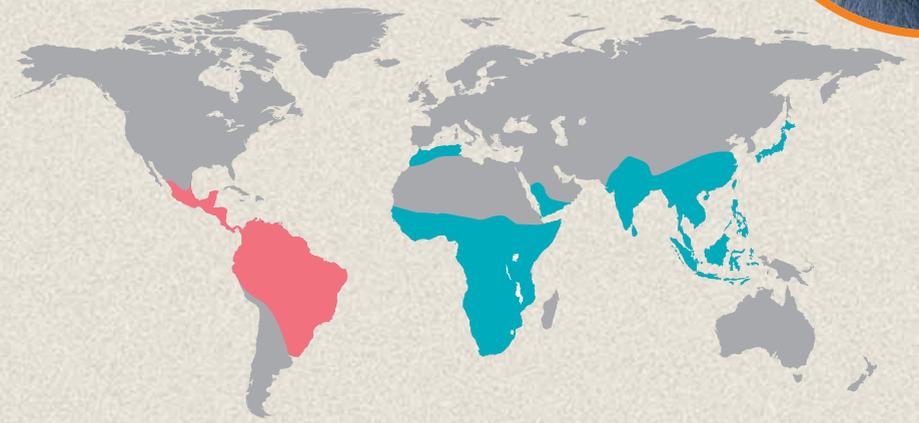
Scientists believe New World monkeys may have migrated from Africa across the Atlantic Ocean to South America via large floating mats of vegetation. This is known as oceanic dispersal, or a rafting event, and is believed to have occurred approximately 40 million years ago when the continents were much closer together.

## OLD WORLD MONKEYS

**Old World monkeys mainly inhabit the tropical and sub-tropical regions of Africa and Asia. They share some of their range with the apes.**

These monkeys can be categorised by two separate characteristics; individuals in the Cercopithecinae subfamily possess cheek pouches that they use to store their food; the others belong to the Colobinae subfamily who are characterised by multi-chambered complex stomachs which assist the digestion of tough or toxic plant matter.

**Rhesus macaques like Spok (right) are from India. Does that make them New or Old World monkeys?**



# APES

## GREAT APES

The great apes are the largest and arguably most intelligent of all primates. They are tailless and highly adaptable.

There are four extant (still in existence) great apes; chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans and humans.

Currently, the only great ape species found at the Haven is the human (*Homo sapiens*), and we don't keep them in enclosures!

Chimpanzees and gorillas are native to the African continent, whereas orangutans are found in southeast Asia. Humans can be found on every continent.



What's that noise?  
Our gibbons sing at regular intervals throughout the day in order to defend their territory. Have you heard them?

## GIBBONS

The gibbons, also known as the lesser apes, belong to the *Hylobatidae* family. Like the great apes, all species have evolved to lose their tails. Gibbons live in small social groups (usually families) and will sometimes spend their entire lifetimes with the same partner.

There are an estimated seventeen gibbon species currently in existence, and the Owl & Monkey Haven is home to three of them:

- ▶ lar gibbons
- ▶ Müller's gibbons
- ▶ siamangs

Our Müller's gibbons and siamangs were housed together after we noticed they were becoming friends through the wire of their previously adjacent enclosures

# PROSIMIANS

## LEMURS

Lemurs are prosimians endemic (exclusive) to the island of Madagascar. They are a diverse group of primates, with different species ranging greatly in size, diet and behaviours.

There are almost one hundred known species of lemur. The Owl & Monkey Haven cares for one of these species; the black-and-white ruffed lemur (*Varecia variegata*).

## OTHER PROSIMIANS

Other prosimians include small nocturnal primates like the bushbaby, loris and tarsier.

Lemurs are currently the only prosimians we care for at the Owl & Monkey Haven.



**I thought you liked to move it, move it?**  
Our lemurs are very lazy animals who spend the majority of their days sleeping! They often become more active at feeding time.





# ENRICHMENT

## TOYS

Our keepers will create toys and puzzle feeders from all sorts of odds and ends. These toys keep the monkeys occupied and prevent them from becoming bored.

The feeder pictured below with Martin was created from two hanging garden baskets, a selection of ball pit balls and some string. The primates can access different treats and food items that the keepers have placed in the feeder's core, by moving the balls around in specific directions.

## ENCLOSURE FURNISHINGS

Every few months we will rearrange the furniture (logs, hammocks, swings etc) inside the enclosures, providing our monkeys with a new area to explore.

## ICE LOLLIES

Believe it or not, despite their tropical ancestry, our monkeys aren't too keen on the heat. They become thirsty and lethargic extremely quickly, and we don't like to see our monkeys uncomfortable!

Luckily, our keepers have come up with a genius way to keep our monkeys cool and refreshed during the hot summer days - home made ice lollies!

Using the surplus of summer fruits we receive from our kind donators, our keepers create large fresh frozen treats and give them to the monkeys at the hottest times of the day.



**MONKEY TOYS ARE MADE FROM JUST ABOUT ANYTHING!**

## DJEBRA

the Red-tailed guenon  
(*Cercopithecus ascanius*)

We test our primates on their intelligence by giving them a bottle full of treats with the lid screwed on, and timing how long it takes for the lid to be removed. The current leader is Djebra the red tailed guenon with a time of 7 seconds

## Farewell to Haven legend Martin

After his rescue in 2010, Martin the capuchin, pictured left, became the first primate to arrive at the sanctuary where his engaging personality and various eccentricities proved an instant hit with staff and customers alike. The unexpected loss of Martin in early 2014 was extremely upsetting for many of us at the Haven. He is survived by his beautiful girlfriend Lulu and only son Malou.

# BEHIND THE SCENES

## FEEDING

We feed our primates a varied diet of fresh fruit and vegetables, most of which is donated to us by local supermarkets. Some of the primates also receive boiled eggs, chicken, bread, porridge, cereals, insects and/or primate pellets, although these food items are supplementary.

The primates receive two main meals a day (breakfast and dinner) with plenty of snacks in between.

The prospect of food is extremely motivating for primates, and our keepers use that to their advantage. It allows us to get the monkeys outside in the morning and inside at night.

## CLEANING

Each group of primates has two enclosures; inside and outside. The outside enclosures are much more spacious and furnished than their inside counterparts as this is where our primates spend their most active waking hours. The inside enclosures are smaller, heated, private areas with resting stations for the primates to sleep on.

Our keepers spend each morning sweeping, mopping and disinfecting all of the inside enclosures. This can be a very messy and unpleasant job!

The outside enclosures are spot-cleaned towards the end of each day, to ensure no uneaten food or waste is left out at night. They also receive an intensive clean every few weeks.

**ITS NOT ALL BANANAS!  
OUR PRIMATES  
EAT A RANGE  
OF FOODS**



Javan langurs like Tonka (below) have very specialised diets of leafy and root vegetables. They're the only monkeys we care for who are never allowed bananas!



## THE MARMOSETS

### Common marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*)

We have several groups of common marmosets here at the Owl & Monkey Haven. Wild marmosets live in South America where they enjoy biting through the bark of trees to access the edible tree sap inside. We feed them porridge, baby food and a special substance called 'marmoset gum' as a substitute.



# XHABU

## Xhabu the siamang (*Symphalangus syndactylus*)

Due to complications at his birth, Xhabu was born with disabilities that have prevented him from entering breeding programmes. He was bullied extensively by the members of his original group before he was sent to the Haven, and now he is the dominant male of his own group of gibbons



# OWLS

## WHAT IS AN OWL?

**An owl is any bird that belongs to the scientific order Strigiformes.**

They are generally characterised by their large eyes, small beaks and large plumage.

Owls are found on every continent except Antarctica. They occupy a wide range of ecosystems and have developed many features to thrive within these environments.

All owls are carnivores (meat-eaters) and are widely acknowledged as highly skilled hunters. Many feed on small rodents such as mice and voles, although some species are large enough to hunt foxes, wolves and even small deer.

We don't fly our owls here at the Owl & Monkey Haven as we wouldn't want them to land on a monkey enclosure and get pulled through! They are very patient birds by nature, and as long as all their needs are met they are quite happy to spend their days perched on a branch watching the world go by.

# OWL & MONKEY HAVEN



## HAVEN MAP

### OWLS & BIRDS OF PREY

- Turkmenian eagle-owl
- Snowy owls
- Eurasian eagle-owl
- Common buzzards
- Bengal eagle-owls
- Barn owls
- Rufous-legged owls
- Tawny owl
- Boobook owls
- Kookaburras

### KEEPER TALKS

Keeper talks are carried out at various intervals throughout the day at points A, B, C, D and E. Please refer to the keeper talk board at location F for today's times and locations.

Please use the map above to help navigate your way around the Haven. There is no strict route, so feel free to wander around at your leisure.

# ADAPTATIONS

## EYES

Owls are well known for their large eyes and unblinking stares, but what you may not know is that owl eyes are tubular shaped. This is a result of the substantial space they occupy in the owl's skull.

Having 'eye tubes' instead of eye balls makes looking around without moving your head a difficult task; tubes can't roll in their sockets like balls can. The owl has therefore developed an adaptation in its neck that allows it to rotate its head 270°, which more than compensates for its inability to move its eyes.

To protect their eyes, owls are equipped with three eyelids. Their upper eyelid is used when blinking; their lower eyelid when sleeping, and the third is a thin membrane that closes diagonally to clean the eye.



### Eye colour

The colour of an owl's eye often indicates when it would be awake. Owls with dark eyes are usually active at night (nocturnal); those with yellow eyes are active during the day (diurnal), and those with orange eyes are active at twilight (crepuscular).

## EARS

The ears of an owl are hidden underneath the feathers of its facial disk. Some species have 'ear tufts' on top of their heads but these are not located near the ears and are simply for display.

An owl is able to detect the location of a noise by the difference in time that it is perceived by each of its ears, e.g. a noise that hits an owl's right ear first will mean it came from the right of the owl and vice versa. Their ears are also asymmetrical (one is higher than the other) which allows the owl to locate noises from above and below.

After hearing a noise, the owl will move its head so the sound arrives at each ear simultaneously, confirming that it is facing the source of the noise (often a tasty prey item!).



## FEATHERS

Owl feathers are very unique. The primary wing feathers have a 'comb-like' edge that breaks down turbulence caused by flight, into micro-turbulence. This muffles the sound of air rushing over the wing's surface and enables the owl to fly silently.

Silent flight is very helpful for sneaking up on prey. This adaptation also allows the owl to make better use of its specialised hearing whilst in flight.

The colour and pattern of an owl's feathers provide it with camouflage. This is particularly useful for nocturnal owls, who need to remain hidden during the day time

Snowy owls like Freda (right) are well adapted for life in the cold harsh environments north of the Arctic circle.



## FEET

Many species of owl have feathered feet. This is to protect their toes from cold weather, and blanket the whistling noise that bare feet make when a bird flies through the air.

Owls have four sharp, powerful talons which they use to catch their prey. These talons automatically lock onto prey and perches, allowing the owl to grip without consciously keeping its muscles contracted.

The bones in owl feet are extremely strong, so as to withstand impacts with large prey items



# DIET

## IN THE WILD

**All owls are predators and exclusive meat-eaters (carnivores). They are very opportunistic, and will take a variety of different prey.**

Some owls have adapted to feed on a variety of invertebrates (insects, spiders, worms, slugs, snails etc.). Others, like the barn owl pictured below, will prey mostly on small rodents (mice, voles, shrews etc.). The largest owl species have been observed feeding on foxes, racoons, small deer and large gamebirds.

The Asian fish owls and African fishing owls are very skilled at catching large fish (pike, catfish, trout etc.).



**OWLS WILL EAT A VARIETY OF PREY**

### Disgusting digestion

Owls are unable to chew their food (they swallow most prey items whole!), so they have to regurgitate the indigestible parts of their prey (fur, bones, teeth and feathers) after every meal. The owl's stomach selects and compresses these parts into a small 'pellet' which is expelled from the bird's mouth.



## IN CAPTIVITY

**Here at the Haven we feed our owls a staple diet of pre-killed chicks. These are a by-product of the egg-laying industry that are regularly sold to zoos and private owners of birds of prey and reptiles.**

Although this may sound cruel, our owls require a carnivorous diet to survive, and if we didn't use the chicks for food they would just be thrown away.

To ensure that our owls have a healthy varied diet, we will occasionally feed them pre-killed mice and rats.

# OLIVIA

the barn owl (*Tyto alba*)

Until she laid a clutch of eggs, Olivia spent the first few years of her life named Oliver! She is a very confident owl who can often be spotted at the front of her aviary.





# BEAU

the tawny owl (*Strix aluco*)

Beau is a beautiful male tawny owl who was donated to the Haven by a private breeder who couldn't find a home for him. As Beau was born in captivity and has been around humans all his life, he is incredibly friendly and you can often meet him at the daily Meet the Owl talks

# BACK TO THE WILD

## RESCUE

As well as providing a home for captive birds unable to cope with life in the wild, the Owl & Monkey Haven has a rescue, rehabilitation and release programme for injured wildlife.

After becoming aware of an injured bird (usually via a member of the public) we will take it in and provide it with food, veterinary care (where applicable) and a temporary home.

The owl pictured left was brought to us having been attacked by a group of rooks. Despite our best efforts to cure the damage sustained to his eye, he sadly died two weeks later.



## RELEASE

As soon as a rescued bird makes a full recovery we will attempt to reintroduce it to the wild.

Birds are almost always released back into familiar territory and at the time of day they feel most comfortable (with owls this is often during the evening or night time).

If the release is successful, the bird will either find a nearby hiding place or fly off into the distance.

The barn owl pictured above was successfully reintroduced to the wild in July 2012.



This Sparrowhawk was brought to the Haven after flying into a car windscreen. Luckily he was only stunned and was soon released back into the wild.

### Where are the rescued birds?

All birds undergoing treatment are kept in aviaries off show. This is to provide them with the privacy they require to make a full recovery



## OTHER BIRDS

### THAT'S NOT AN OWL!

**You might notice whilst strolling around the Owl & Monkey Haven that several of our birds are not owls - in fact some of them aren't even birds of prey!**

We try and find homes for all the animals we are offered here at the Haven, and occasionally that includes some that aren't on our strict agenda.

Just like the owls, our other birds are all rescues who were in need of a home. Some are injured wild birds like Nelson the buzzard (who had to have one of his eyes removed after a collision with a car), whereas others are exotic birds born in captivity like the kookaburras and red-billed blue magpies.

Regardless of their reasons for being here, we think the various birds are absolutely beautiful and magnificent to watch. And we hope you do too!



## REPTILES

### COLD-BLOODED CREATURES

**The Haven is also home to a small collection of reptiles and amphibians, which can be found in our Wise Owl education lodge.**

Almost all of the reptiles have come to us from private collectors who are no longer able to look after them for various reasons. Many of them are very long-lived animals whose owners have experienced a change in circumstances that prevented them from providing the care they need.

Reptiles and amphibians are ectothermic, which means they rely on external sources to keep their body temperatures up. This is why snakes and lizards are often seen basking in the sun.

Our snakes feed on a diet of pre-killed mice and rats, which they constrict before swallowing whole. They eat once every 7-10 days, and are extremely delicate for a few days after a meal. For this reason, we can only bring the snakes out occasionally.



# KEEPER FOR THE DAY

**A GREAT GIFT IDEA OR EVEN A TREAT FOR YOURSELF!**

The haven now offers YOU the chance to join our animal keepers and help look after our diverse range of rescued primates and birds of prey!

This once in a life time experience entails meeting many of our fascinating animals up close, preparing and scattering food, getting dirty with the cleaning and learning all about the individual personalities and histories of the animals. The session lasts from 9.30 – 15.00 and includes the following:

Keeper for the day; Minimum donation of £125

- Health & safety briefing
- Prepare and scatter food
- Clean out the enclosures
- Hand feed the marmosets
- Learn to hold an owl
- Assist with the keeper talks/feeds
- Tea breaks and lunch
- Certificate and photos to remind you of your special day

Advanced booking required. Terms and conditions apply. You must be 14 + to take part.



“I loved every minute of hanging out with the animals, such a special day and one I will always treasure. Many thanks and keep up the great work”  
Sue

# BIRTHDAYS

**THE PERFECT VENUE FOR A BIRTHDAY PARTY!**

With a wonderful range of animals and two fantastic play areas, the Owl & Monkey Haven is the perfect venue for a birthday party!

Birthday package costs £12.95 per child and include:

- Party invitations
- Entry to the Haven
- Exclusive use of the birthday lodge and party organiser for two hours
- Guided tour
- Meet the owl
- Picnic box
- Visit from the mascot
- Use of our facilities (including play areas) at your leisure
- Goodie bags
- Adoption gift for the birthday child
- Two adults are included in the price (additional adults cost £5 each)
- Minimum charge of £80 per party

For more information on the additional options we can include, please ask for a birthday pack.

To make a booking please call: **01983 530885** or email: **info@owlandmonkeyhaven.co.uk**



“What a lovely attraction, fab play ground and lovely party room. It was very well planned and organised and all the parents of the children commented on what a great party it was.”  
Grace Cooke

# FACILITIES

The soft mulch substrate throughout our play areas is made from 100% recycled aircraft tyres

## XHABU'S TEA ROOM

We offer a wide selection of freshly prepared sandwiches, pastries, jacket potatoes, cakes, ice creams, snacks, and a variety of refreshing beverages. Xhabu's Tea Room has indoor and outdoor seating, and the viewing conservatory is adjacent to our 'Cheeky Monkey' under 5s play area so that parents can relax while watching their little ones play.

## GIFT SHOP

Our gift shop is packed full of fun souvenirs and potential presents. We have a wide selection of soft toys, keyrings, postcards, decorations, fashion accessories and magnets etc.

Animal adoptions and our home-made items (which include jewellery and garden ornaments) are great gifts, with 100% of their revenue going straight back into the haven.

## PLAY AREAS

Situated next to our leaf monkeys and lar gibbons, the Funky Monkey Play Area is our largest play area. It features various apparatus, including rope bridges, slides, swings, towers and a see-saw! All this features within an area designed to look like a monkey enclosure - it even has a Homo sapiens information board on it!

The Cheeky Monkey Play Area has been designed for the Havens' youngest visitors. It features bubble cars, tricycles, springies, a slide and play hut. Parents can watch their children play from the decking area or tea room conservatory.

**FRESHLY  
PREPARED  
SNACKS**



# MARMOSET ENCOUNTER

For the ultimate animal experience enjoy a one to one encounter with some of the smallest monkeys in the world.

This exclusive experience take you inside the marmosets' enclosure where you will be able to hand feed and interact with these inquisitive South American monkeys while our keeper provides you with information on their species, personalities and care.

Single and joint encounters are available and you will receive photographs and a certificate in a keepsake folder to remind of your experience.

To participate in a marmoset encounter we ask for a minimum donation of £50 for one person and £80 for two. This is to ensure we don't overfeed the marmosets, and provide them with ample time to relax between encounters.

If you are interested in purchasing a marmoset encounter, please enquire in the gift shop as to which time slots are available. Encounters can also be pre-booked by calling **01983 530885**.



# LATEST RESCUE

**In January 2014 we welcomed our latest arrivals, the Barbary macaques, these were all individual victims of the illegal pet trade.**

After a life of improper care all six barbary macaques were abandoned and confiscated by The AAP Rescue centre (an organisation based in the Netherlands, which rescues and rehomes animals all over the world). Having previously worked with The AAP we were asked to rehome and construct a brand new purpose-built enclosure for this troubled troop, providing them with a new life and new beginnings.

Anou, the alpha male of the group consisting of two male and four females, was confiscated by the French authorities. He lived in a container without windows in Marseille and was found in bad condition. Nanushka was confiscated from a pet shop in Belgium and Yilda was found in hand luggage at a Belgium airport. Each of the others; Geertje, Mounia and Mouki each shared equally harrowing histories before being introduced to one another at the AAP.

Thanks to the great work of The AAP and the overwhelming generosity of our visitors, we are able to continue to make a difference to the lives of otherwise abandoned primates. Thank you for your continued support.



## THANK YOU FROM THE TEAM

Thank you for taking your time to read through this guidebook. We hope it provided you with a decent understanding of the animals we care for, and the work we do, here at the Owl & Monkey Haven.

We are very grateful to the overwhelming support we have received from our customers, and hope you understand how much it means to us.

Without you, none of this would have been possible.

Many thanks,  
**The Owl & Monkey Haven team.**



All information is correct at time of going to print Feb 2014.

Be a  
giftaid  
visitor

give a tickle, help a lot